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## An Address

In the City Auditorium of Savannah, Ga.  
April 21, 1919

By HON. E. E. ROGERS

*Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency the Governor, Your Honor the Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen of Savannah:*

It has been the privilege of Mrs. Rogers and me to attend many public occasions, but never have we journeyed so far in response to so gracious an invitation, nor with keener anticipation, than to this celebration.

As the official representative of the city of New London, Conn., by direction of the city council, I am pleased to convey to the people of Savannah the heartiest greetings from the citizens of New London, with their best wishes for the success of this Centennial, celebrating as it does the first trans-Atlantic voyage by steam.

New London and Savannah are associated historically. Both were captured during the Revolutionary War. Your Sergeant Jasper sealed his patriotism with his life. Within a few rods of my residence in New London stands the school house where Nathan Hale resigned as principal to accept his commission in the Continental Army, which service he sealed with his life, regretting that he had but one life to lose for his country. After reading your traditions and history and seeing your historic memorials on every side, I must pay a word of tribute to your patriotic women of such societies as The Colonial Dames, Daughters of the American Revolution, and United Daughters of the Confederacy, and others who have been instrumental in erecting such memorials, and I will do this in the words of Georgia's historian Lamar when referring to the patriotic women of Georgia, he said, "Whose unwearied efforts to rescue from oblivion the fading records of your great commonwealth, have made them, in a peculiar sense, the guardians of Georgia's immortality."

A few minutes ago I learned the Jasper Memorial was organized and successfully completed by your local historian, Gen. Meldrim.

Savannah and New London have been associated commercially. One hundred years ago the wealthy and enterprising Savannah merchants lead by William Scarbrough financed the building, equipping and trans-Atlantic voyage of the S. S. SAVANNAH. It was one of the most patriotic, commercial undertakings ever financed by the citizens of any municipality and is deserving of the highest praise.

New London is pleased to have had a share in this great undertaking by furnishing Captain Moses Rogers, commander of the ship, and Captain Stevens Rogers, the sailing master. While the ship was built in New York, yet the crew was shipped from New London. I am simply a relative of the Captains Rogers (the press reports me a descendant) having descended from the same New London ancestor, in which city the Rogers family has lived for 264 years. Judge and Mrs. Arthur P. Anderson have come with us and Mrs. Anderson is the great-great-niece of Captain Moses Rogers.

Felicitating you on the great honor which is yours, and congratulating you on the superb enterprise of your people of today, it is a delight to be present with you.